

***Clitostethus arcuatus* (Rossi) (Col.: Coccinellidae) in central London**

To the new vice-county records for the Endangered (*Red Data Book* category 1) ladybird *Clitostethus arcuatus* given by Colin Welch and Martin Jukes during 1999 (*Ent. Rec.* 111: 133-134), can now be added another in the form of Middlesex. A single specimen was recently identified by me from a mass of small beetles which Colin Plant had sorted from the malaise trap in the garden of Buckingham Palace; the single specimen was in the sample collected in the period from 27 July to 3 August 1996. The species is allegedly associated with ivy *Hedera helix* and it is of interest that a small patch of ivy carpets a small area of ground adjacent to the trap, on the slope of a wooded mound. The plant is also present on several trees throughout the garden and also grows at various points on the perimeter wall.

That this rare beetle should be present in the very centre of London seems surprising, though it is by no means the only surprise that Buckingham Palace Garden has to offer. The survey of the garden was carried out between 1995 and 1997 by the London Natural History Society, with gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen. A full list of beetles recorded at this site, together with a discussion, will be presented by me in December 2001 in the second and final part of the work *The natural history of Buckingham Palace Garden, London* which will form a supplement to *The London Naturalist* for that year.— S. ALEX WILLIAMS, 40 Preston Park, Faversham, Kent ME13 8LN.

***Dienerella argus* Reitter (Col.: Latridiidae) on Lundy**

My wife and I spent a few days on Lundy last September. Among some beetles shaken out of a heap of old hay in a barn on 17.ix.1999 were three specimens of a small *Dienerella*. The key provided by von Peez (in Freude, Harde & Lohse, Eds., 1967. *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas*. vol 7) indicated that they were *D. argus* and this was subsequently confirmed by comparing them with material in The Natural History Museum, London. *D. argus* is relatively small, at 1.3 - 1.4 mm in length, with large eyes and no temples and is only likely to be confused with *D. filum* (Aubé), which has a two-jointed antennal club whereas the club in *argus* has three joints. The specimens of *D. argus* were accompanied by many example of *D. ruficollis* (Marshall).

D. argus was introduced to the British list by Newberry (1907. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 43: 136) who recorded an example taken at a wholesale druggist in London. It has been recorded in Britain in imported Indian oilcake and Rhodesian maize (Aitken, 1975. *Insect Travellers*, vol. 1: *Coleoptera*. Inspectorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Technical Bulletin 31). I have not found any other published record of this beetle in Britain, but the Manchester Museum holds five specimens dated 23.ix.1971 collected from a house in Dukinfield, Manchester and The Natural History Museum, London holds four specimens dated 14.ii.1977 collected from a house in Epping Forest, Essex. Enquiries at other British museums have not produced further records.

On the continent of Europe, the beetle is recorded from wet grassland and from under decayed bark of oaks (von Peez, *op. cit.*). It is known also from North Africa and from North America where it has been found in ground cereals and in standing wheat (Hinton, 1945. *A monograph of the beetles associated with stored products*. vol.1. British Museum (Natural History), London).

I thank Mr Howard Mendel for arranging access to material held in The Natural History Museum, London, Mr Colin Johnson for information on material in the Manchester Museum and Dr Brian Levey for information on material in the National Museum of Wales. I thank also Mr M. Sinclair for advising me that there are no British specimens in the Royal Museums, Edinburgh and no records in the *Scottish Insects Records Index*. Lastly I thank Miss Lisa Coles, National Trust Warden, Lundy for her help in our study of beetles on the island.— JOHN OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU (E-mail: jaowen@talk21.com).

***Harpalus griseus* Panzer (Col.: Carabidae) in Britain – a postscript**

In recording a specimen of this beetle taken in the second half of July 1995 in a light trap at Wimbledon, Surrey (Owen, 1996 *Ent. Rec.* **108**: 69-72), I suggested that it might be the first definitely British example. I did this with some hesitation because the beetle was at one time on the British list, though I had not been able to trace an unequivocally British specimen. To try and clarify the situation, I wrote in the note that I would be pleased to learn of any specimen thought to be a British example of the species to which I had not referred and, to the same end, exhibited the specimen at the British Entomological and Natural History Society's Exhibition in November 1996. Professor Dacie, to whom I am indebted for the specimen, continued to run his light trap at Wimbledon until the end of 1998, but no further examples of the species were trapped.

To date (March 2000), I have not heard of any further records, but one additional piece of information has come to light. Rye (1863 *Ent. Ann.* 65-115), put forward the view that *H. griseus* was a British beetle having seen two examples in the Waterhouse collection. As reported in my note, there is a specimen of *H. griseus* on a card inscribed "G.R.W. coll" in the Waterhouse collection in the Royal Scottish Museums, Edinburgh. This is presumably one of the two specimens seen by Rye in the Waterhouse collection. Now, my friend Roger Booth has found what is almost certainly the other Waterhouse specimen, among material in The Natural History Museum, London. Like the one in Edinburgh, it is mounted on a card inscribed "G.R.W. coll." and also like the Edinburgh specimen has a pin-hole in the right elytron. The specimen bears what are apparently two accession labels, one of which refers to Power, but no date or locality is given.

I thank Dr Booth for allowing me to refer to his discovery and for arranging inspection of the specimen in question.— J. A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU (jaowen@talk21.com).